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HOME NEWS

A referendum has been applied for by a small, though sufficient number of citizens against the new taxation law of Geneva, which is supposed to come into force next year; the voting will take place on June 6th, the same day when the revision of the Federal alcohol article will be submitted to a plebiscite.

At the elections for the Lucerne Grosse Rat the Conservative and Liberal parties slightly increased their previous majority.—The voters rejected the proposed reduction in the salaries of the municipal employees.

For selling the business to a competing concern in another canton, the "Schabzieger" factory Muller & Co. in Glaris has been condemned to pay Frs. 33,000 to their Trade Association, an amount which, the Federal Tribunal held, the Glaris firm had forfeited by having acted contrary to the agreed rules of the Association of which they were members.

Lausanne has become the shrine for peace-makers, but its reputation was rudely shaken on Thursday evening (May 10th) by an ordinary act of vengeance, which is being exaggerated and used by certain newspapers for political ends. Whilst partaking of their dinner in a fashionable restaurant, three Russian representatives were fired upon by a Swiss, with the result that one, Worowski, was instantly killed, and two others, Ahrens and Dobrikowski, were more or less seriously wounded. The murderer, Conradi, according to his own statement, has been waiting for this opportunity to avenge the death of relatives who had been plundered and shot in Russia by the Bolsheviks. The Communist party in Switzerland has arranged protest meetings, openly accusing the Federal Council of complicity in the crime for not having accorded the customary police protection to the Russians; a semblance of justification is given to this accusation by the fact that the arrival and presence of this "unofficial" delegation had already been resented, so that the local police should have been forewarned. Conradi was born in Petrograd in 1896 and served as an officer in the old Russian army, joining later the White army fighting against the Bolsheviks. After the defeat of this army, two years ago, he came to Switzerland with his wife, finding employment with a Zurich engineering firm.

It is reported that the hotel "Bernherhof," which adjoins the Swiss Parliament buildings, has been acquired by the Confederation at a cost of nearly three million francs.

Some further liberal donations for the benefit of Swiss institutions have been made by the "Zurich" Accident Insurance Co., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its foundation. Amongst the institutions so singled out are: the "Winkelried" foundation (Frs. 25,000); Association for Fighting Tuberculosis (Frs. 25,000); "Pro Senectute" (Frs. 20,000); "Pro Juventute" (Frs. 20,000); Fund of Assistance in case of non-assurable accidents (Frs. 20,000); Scientific Research Fund of the Zurich University (Frs. 10,000); Swiss National Museum (Frs. 10,000); Swiss Society of Public Utility (Frs. 20,000), etc., the total of which amounts to about a quarter of a million francs.

Emil Mury-Flück, of Basle, formerly National Councillor, a most successful business man, who had occupied many public offices in his native town, died on May 10th at the age of 80.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Summer or Winter Holidays are all very well, but *Switzerland in Springtime* is even better. The white blossom of the cherry-trees, the delicate rose of the apple-blossom, the large yellow patches in the landscape, produced by dandelions and buttercups, and the various shades of green, from the deep, almost black, of the pines to the light, almost yellow, of the meadow-grass, the whole

1872

50TH ANNIVERSARY

1922

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1887	134,730		1887	90,639
1892	236,271		1892	250,363
1897	390,962		1897	456,306
1902	665,199		1902	944,739
1907	1,189,710		1907	1,902,311
1912	1,690,434		1912	3,375,525
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intersected by the varying colour of the lakes and rivers—all this makes a picture which it would require a supreme artist to depict. I will not attempt it, for obvious reasons. But I would recommend my readers to try May for a Holiday in Switzerland and drink in the incomparable beauty of our country as it presents itself then.

Reporting for duty to our Editor, I received from him several letters from my readers. Some are being replied to through the post. Among the others I will pick out one from a reader—of the gentle sex, I think—at Kingston-on-Thames. This reader makes a number of suggestions the adoption of which, she thinks, would change *The Swiss Observer* into something better. For instance, she advocates leading articles on interesting topics, and wants such leaders to be written by "GREAT MEN." Now, I think that *The Swiss Observer* would thereby lose its *raison d'être*. We elder members of the Colony know that a really serious and ponderous paper cannot live, *i.e.*, will not find sufficient support from the Swiss Colony. The reason is obvious: Those who wish leaders written by Great Men turn either to the big English dailies and weeklies, or to the big Swiss papers, like the *Journal de Genève*, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *Bund*, etc. Our Swiss Clubs have such papers in their reading rooms, and even there they are seldom read. For the Swiss Colony a paper like *The Swiss Observer*, giving a few paragraphs of happenings at home, giving also the news of the social life of our Colony, is what is wanted, as we have the Literary Page so ably conducted, this is really already an addition to what is required. Believe me, dear lady, the Swiss in London do not want too much serious reading in their local Swiss paper. They prefer lighter music, and, above all, to read something about themselves.

L'Affaire Spahinger—A most important Letter.

The *Lancet* (April 14th) publishes the following letter from the well-known Dr. Th. Stephani, of Montana:—

"Having read in your columns the opinions of several of my colleagues concerning Mr. Henry Spahinger's antituberculous vaccines and sera, I beg to inform you that I have applied this method since 1915 to more than 250 patients. My reasons for not having published sooner the remarkable results obtained are as follows:—

These specific remedies are extremely delicate and difficult to produce. They necessitate the simultaneous manufacture of a series of partial products of which the combination produces the necessary polyvalence in order to obtain a cure for tuberculosis. The supply of these sera and vaccines has often, partially or totally, failed by reasons of the war and financial difficulties. Had the public been aware of the favourable results

obtained by the treatment, the visits and demand for the remedy would have rendered Mr. Spahinger's work more difficult and delayed the manufacture. The anti-toxic action of the sera and their polyvalence not only arrest tuberculosis in its acute forms, but also render possible the application of this treatment with success in the most advanced phases of the disease, and in cases in which any therapeutic intervention by methods previously known would have appeared hopeless. The curative effect of the vaccines, even of partial vaccines, in chronic forms of tuberculosis has shown itself extremely reliable.

Since, for want of funds, the sera and vaccines can no longer be prepared, and, owing to general indifference, there is a prospect of closing the laboratory (the continued activity of which involves the recovery and lives of a multitude of sufferers) I consider it now to be my duty to make known the results obtained by this method."

The Swiss Governess.

I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the young ladies who come to England in order to learn English and who, at the same time, struggle valiantly with the problems set before them as Governesses. I have read with pleasure the following notes in the *Yorkshire Post* (7th May), although the writer does not seem to have a very extensive experience of young Swiss ladies. At all events, I should hesitate before calling them "usually placid." I have met some of them who were "spirited" enough for my taste:—

"We are getting back to pre-war conditions, and the Swiss governess is once more with us. She is a great boon, for she is usually placid and conscientious, looks after her charges unselfishly, and does her best, whilst mastering the English tongue, to help her reluctant charges to adopt a foreign language. One sometimes wonders, however, why people who wish their children to learn French should engage governesses from those parts of Switzerland where German is the current language. Why not engage such a girl to speak German (still a useful language), or, if French is desired, engage a governess from Lausanne or thereabouts? In Lausanne a great proportion of the people are virtually French, as, at the time of the persecutions, French Protestants settled there in great numbers.

Then, too, why do we neglect Italian Switzerland? Italian is a very useful language for our older children to know and speak, and from Italian Switzerland come girls who can teach Italian well.

The Y.W.C.A. is very helpful to the would-be employer, particularly if the applicant has in her own mind a clear idea from what district she desires her governess to come. It is also well to pay her salaries and engage young women whose standing in their native land is good. A professor's daughter would be a better companion for one's growing girls than the daughter of an equally worthy, but perchance less refined member of society."

Rhine Navigation.

From the *Journal of Commerce* (26th April):—
"The Convention concluded between Germany, France, and Switzerland relative to the deviation of